

THE PRESS.

MONDAY MORNING, SEPT. 15, 1873

Every regular article of the Press is furnished with a card certifying that it is a copy of the original, and that it is not a copy of any other paper. This card is given to the author, and is to be presented to the publisher of any paper to which it is sent, as a guarantee of its authenticity. It is not necessary for the publisher to return the card, but it is to be retained as a record of the original source of the article.

We do not read anonymous letters and communications. The name and address of the writer must be given, and the letter must be signed, and the signature must be in full. We cannot undertake to return or reserve communications that are not signed.

Taxation of Church Property.

The large amount of property which has been massed in the hands of religious organizations, and especially in the hands of the Roman Catholic church in this city, has given rise to a very serious discussion as to the propriety of a continued exemption of such property from taxation by the State and municipal authorities. The Independent of September 11th has a long article strongly advocating such taxation. It takes the ground that the property is protected by law and by all the safe-guards which are placed around other property and should pay ratably for the expenses attending such protection. To the leading argument in favor of exemption—that the property pays no income—the Independent answers that "a very large amount of property pays taxes that yield an income to its owners, and we see no reason why a church corporation should be relieved from its due proportion of tax burdens because the corporations receive no pecuniary profit from their investments. This fact, standing by itself, is of no weight one way or the other. The question with which the State has to deal under the system of valuation is simply one of property possession, and not with the income which it yields, the uses to which it is applied, or the motives of those who own it. Any other question is entirely foreign to the theory of taxation by valuation and a uniform rate of percentage thereon. The owners of property have their own choice as to its disposal; and, if they so dispose of it as to secure to themselves no private income therefrom, the State has no reason why it should absolve them from taxation."

The Independent regards the exemption as affording a sort of union between church and state, entirely foreign to the theory of government, stating the case thus:

"The moment we concede that religious uses furnish a good reason for exemption we must also concede that the state should levy an increased taxation upon the property of the church as an equivalent for the special favor upon the church as an equivalent for religious purposes. It must be conceded that the church is not otherwise walled in, that to bestow this immunity upon the church, and that, too, according to the argument, because it is a religious organization, this, as we have said in previous articles, is a violation of the principle of church and state developed in a tax system. Taxpayers are coerced by law to an indirect support of the church, and the church is thereby indirectly becoming the patron of religion upon the agency of law. We have no desire to overstate the case, yet we are sure that the exemption can be defended for the reason alleged without injury to the State. The State can decree that the support of religion, either in whole or in part, is one of the proper functions of the state. If two groups of citizens are very easy to take the tax, and claim that the state should also exempt control, over the religion it thus supports. The exemption is logically connected. We reject both of them and the same reason, holding a theory in regard to the propriety of civil government which equally excludes both.

This is a matter which calls for consideration on the part of all citizens, and the reasons for and against should be understood in order that an intelligent and just result may be reached. We append the statement of the amount of such property in this city, together with the views of the chairman of our assessors given in a recent report:

The question as to the taxation of religious institutions is a recurring question in all parts of the Union. In Missouri and California, they are all taxed; and in New York, the exemption of the Legislature, the subject was under consideration, with what result we are not informed. According to the constitution of our republic, institutions, they certainly should be included with the property subject to taxation—for it is manifestly wrong to increase the burden of one portion of the citizens for the furtherance of the support of the religious faith, and to exempt the other for the same purpose. The estimated value of church property in Portland is as follows:

Roman Catholic	\$3,000,000
Protestant	400,000
Episcopal	100,000
Methodist	100,000
Presbyterian	100,000
Unitarian	50,000
Total	\$3,600,000

The Royal Commission now in session at Ottawa, is pursuing its course in a very quiet manner, but it is not without its share of interest. It is the duty of the commission to report to the government, and it is the duty of the government to report to the people. The commission is now in the midst of its work, and it is expected that it will soon be able to report to the government.

Matters at the Capital.

FURTHER ELECTION RETURNS—NOMINATIONS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE PRESS:

The following is a list of the members of the House of Representatives. From a few districts the returns are incomplete, but the result will not be materially changed.

REPUBLICANS.

DEMOCRATS.

EXCURSION TO THE MOUNTAINS.

AN EXCHANGE.

A COLLEGE CLASS.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—1874.

REPUBLICANS.

DEMOCRATS.

EXCURSION TO THE MOUNTAINS.

AN EXCHANGE.

A COLLEGE CLASS.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—1874.

REPUBLICANS.

DEMOCRATS.

EXCURSION TO THE MOUNTAINS.

AN EXCHANGE.

A COLLEGE CLASS.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—1874.

REPUBLICANS.

DEMOCRATS.

EXCURSION TO THE MOUNTAINS.

AN EXCHANGE.

A COLLEGE CLASS.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—1874.

REPUBLICANS.

DEMOCRATS.

EXCURSION TO THE MOUNTAINS.

AN EXCHANGE.

A COLLEGE CLASS.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—1874.

REPUBLICANS.

DEMOCRATS.

EXCURSION TO THE MOUNTAINS.

AN EXCHANGE.

A COLLEGE CLASS.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—1874.

REPUBLICANS.

DEMOCRATS.

EXCURSION TO THE MOUNTAINS.

AN EXCHANGE.

A COLLEGE CLASS.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES—1874.

REPUBLICANS.

DEMOCRATS.

EXCURSION TO THE MOUNTAINS.

AN EXCHANGE.

A COLLEGE CLASS.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

A CHRISTIAN GENTLEMAN.

